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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 811
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Miss Lisa-Marie
Lewallen as the A-AA State Tennis Champion.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize those stellar athletes whose accomplishments are a tremendous source of pride for their families, schools, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the very talented and highly regarded Miss Lisa-Marie Lewallen is one such exemplary individual who has been named the Tennessee Class A-AA Singles State Tennis Champion; and

WHEREAS, a committed and well established athlete, Miss Lewallen began her estimable competitive tennis career at the early age of eight; she started playing in the U.S.T.A. with the 10-and-under age group and has been ranked in the top 10 in Tennessee every year since; and

WHEREAS, Lisa-Marie is currently ranked #1 in doubles and #7 in singles play in Tennessee in the 18-and-under age group; and

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WHEREAS, this persevering and self-motivated individual has been Scott High School's only tennis player in its 29-year existence; and

WHEREAS, she is a three-time District Player of the Year, a three-time District Champion, a three-time Region Champion, a two-time State Semi-Finalist, and in her senior year was unbeaten throughout the season; and

WHEREAS, throughout her outstanding tennis career, Lisa-Marie has been coached by her father, Gene Lewallen, who was a dominant player in Tennessee for many years; and

WHEREAS, Miss Lewallen feels very fortunate to have her father as a friend and a coach, and her mother as a constant source of support; she stated, "My dad has influenced my life a great deal. He has been my inspiration to never give up and believe that nothing is impossible...I thank God every day for the wonderful, supportive parents that I have been blessed with"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her exceptional tennis abilities, Lisa-Marie was recently named valedictorian of the 2000 graduating class at Scott High School; and

WHEREAS, through diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and unyielding commitment of time and talent, Miss Lewallen has achieved outstanding academic success, and has joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and our country; and

WHEREAS, in her remarkable high school career, Lisa-Marie has earned an exemplary 4.0 grade point average; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding young woman has been an active and valued member of the student body; she is a member of the Beta Club, the Student Council, the Math Club, the S.W.A.T. Club, and the Athletic Club; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her many accomplishments, Lisa-Marie has received countless honors and accolades including, being listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*; and

WHEREAS, she is a devoted member of the Mt. View Missionary Baptist Church and is involved in the choir, King's Kids International, and will participate in a mission trip to Mexico; and

WHEREAS, an even more remarkable aspect of Miss Lewallen's character extends well beyond the classroom and the tennis court; when her father was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia seven years ago, the search for the right bone marrow match for a transplant ended with Lisa-Marie; and

WHEREAS, at the young age of eleven, Miss Lewallen never hesitated when the possibility of a transplant became apparent; and

WHEREAS, a brave and determined Lisa-Marie stated, "I knew that the transplant was something I had to do. I didn't care about what I had to go through. I just wanted my dad to live"; and

WHEREAS, she quickly recovered from the procedure and Mr. Lewallen is now in remission coaching his devoted daughter and living a cancer-free life thanks in large part to Lisa-Marie's generosity; and

WHEREAS, selfless individuals such as Lisa-Marie are truly a beacon of light in today's turbulent times and serve as astounding examples to all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Miss Lewallen's display of intellectual aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for her future success; and

WHEREAS, her future plans are to attend Lincoln Memorial University where she will continue to play tennis on a scholarship; and

WHEREAS, Lisa-Marie's noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for her parents, Gene and Gail Lewallen, her grandmother, Mrs. Ozee Branim, her school, and her community; and

WHEREAS, Lisa-Marie Lewallen's dedication to excellence in her tennis endeavors and academics is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and honor the Class A-AA Singles State Tennis Champion, Miss Lisa-Marie Lewallen, on her impressive tennis and academic achievements, and extend to her our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.